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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 16 July 2014

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2014/31)*]

2014/28. Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission,

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

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Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of a number of Millennium Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation as a cross-cutting theme of the post-2015 development agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development",

Noting the need for new approaches that embed science, technology and innovation policies and capacity-building as crucial components of national development plans, inter alia through collaboration between sectoral ministries, science, technology and innovation and information and communications technology agencies and a range of regulatory bodies,

Recognizing the increased regional integration efforts throughout the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, the creation of policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(*a*) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To undertake systemic research on new trends in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

(iv) To promote information and communications technologies through a capability-based approach that rests on the foundations of learning, innovation and competence-building systems, rather than a needs-based approach, and by establishing a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, innovation and entrepreneurship;

(v) To seek international cooperation opportunities in information and communications technologies, particularly in terms of identifying good practices, for example in e-learning — especially massive open online courses

— e-government, e-science, e-health, management of electronic waste and disaster resilience, through existing and new cooperation platforms;

(vi) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields;

(vii) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technical training programmes or courses;

(*b*) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology, innovation and engineering in the post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for horizon scanning and strategic planning, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in areas such as food security, the management of water and other natural resources, urbanization, advanced manufacturing and related education and vocational needs, and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies that can potentially affect the achievement of that agenda;

(iii) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(iv) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to attract new sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in particular smaller scale, off-grid renewable energy technologies, to address pressing challenges and needs for sustainable development, in collaboration with other organizations where appropriate;

(v) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, successful local innovation models, case studies and experiences on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development;

(vi) To play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(vii) To provide a forum for sharing good practices and experiences to identify and recommend ways and appropriate measures to promote innovation, research and development, creation of new knowledge and transfer of technology, as well as information and communications technologies for capacity-building in science, technology and engineering education, research and entrepreneurship for the benefit of developing countries and, in this context, to explore ways to expand cooperation among all countries, with

particular attention to addressing pollution problems in order to protect the environment and share available resources;

(viii) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Millennium Development Goals and in the post-2015 development agenda, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals review and the post-2015 development agenda;

(ix) To discuss the establishment of a systematic approach for strategy development related to science, technology and engineering for innovation;

(*c*) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations.

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